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FINLAND

I. Status and Strength of the Finnish Communist Party

The Finnish Communist Party, legal since 1944, is represented in the Finnish parliament by the Finnish People's Democratic League (SKDL), a front organization dominated by Communists and including Left-Wing Socialists. Communist voting strength has remained fairly stable in relation to that of the non-Communist parties; the FCP's membership is estimated at about 25,000-30,000 as of February 1958.

Although the CP controls 43 of 200 seats in Parliament, CP efforts to infiltrate other branches of the national government have failed, mainly because of a strictly enforced merit system and the refusal of the other Finnish political parties to cooperate with the SKDL in the formation of a cabinet. They have not been represented in the cabinet since July 1948. In the October 1956 nationwide communal elections (before the Hungarian uprisings) Communists polled 21.2% of the vote. Communist influence is strongest in Lapland and in urban industrial centers. The most important area of Communist penetration is the Confederation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK) where Communists and fellow travelers account for 30-35% of the membership and control six of the thirty-six affiliated national unions. The Hungarian revolt caused some dissension among the Party's rank and file.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, etc.

Information is not available to show whether or not the Finnish CP now has militant action groups ready to carry out aggressive action. Since many CP's of the Free World do have such groups, it is reasonable to assume that the Finnish CP also has them in readiness for "self-defense", security, guard duty or for action of more aggressive nature.

III. Training in Sabotage Given within Finland

Two reports relating to Communist activity in Kemi, a Finnish

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port, in late 1953 showed that Party functionaries were giving lectures which appeared to prepare Party members psychologically for eventual sabotage action. At one of these meetings a discussion was held which included the following topics: how the revolution was accomplished in the Soviet Union; the conduct of sabotage operations in a capitalist state; how "true Communists" would react to (1) revolution by force (2) sabotage (3) the extent to which sabotage duties could be assigned to the lower echelons (4) the way in which all of these activities could be put into effect in Finland if the occasion demanded them.

IV. Training in Sabotage in Communist Bloc Countries

No information is available to show that such training is being given to Finnish Communists in order to prepare them for future sabotage missions sponsored by the local Communist Party.

V. Targets of Communist Sabotage

a. U.S. Personnel and/or Installations

There is no indication of such action directed against U. S. personnel or installations in Finland.

b. Other Sabotage: Serious Strike Agitation Threatened Finnish Political System, 1949

In August 1949 demonstrations and riots occurred during a 17-day Communist-led strike. In riots in the north of Finland two men were killed and many were injured. Although the strikes were called by Communist-led labor unions ostensibly in order to obtain higher pay, they were described by Premier Karl August Fagerholm as "the greatest attempt since the war to crush Finland's political system".

VI. Evidence of Direction and Support from the Communist Bloc

The only period when the FCP engaged in violence and disruptive action which in its effect constituted sabotage was after the CPSU/Cominform called for militant action on a global scale in late 1947-1949.

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IX. Estimate of Threat

The fact that the FCP in 1947-1949 engaged in violence and disruptive action in response to a CPSU/Cominform requirement makes it likely that the FCP would do so again if called upon. But there is some indication that rank and file members are not as willing to undertake aggressive action now as they were in the past because of the alleged failure of the FCP to support and defend them when they were apprehended for violent acts. Reports of 1956 and 1957 show a possible intention for Scandinavian Communist parties to enter upon a program to slow down or to halt production of war goods and to prevent shipments and deliveries of these goods. This program was reported to be under the direction of unidentified members of the Finnish CP. To date these 1956 and 1957 reports have not been confirmed.

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